

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-09

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY S)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S MIDEAST TRIP: KUWAIT EDITORIAL REACTION

1. KUWAIT PRESS COMMENT HAS GONE THROUGH THREE GENERAL STAGES. INITIALLY, COMMENT SUGGESTED SECRETARY MAKING TRIP TO PREPARE FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE, WORKING IN COORDINATION WITH SOVIETS. THEN DURING PERIOD OF VISITS VARIED IN ANALYSING OUTCOME, BUT LARGELY IGNORING GENEVA. THIRDLY, ON FEBRUARY 15-16 PRESS CONCENTRATED ON NEED FOR ARAB UNITY IN FACE OF UNCERTAIN OUTCOME. THROUGHOUT STAGES, EDITORIALS HAVE SOUNDED NOTE OF PESSIMISM AND HAVE QUESTIONED STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH. POLITICAL CARTOONS, APPEARING DAILY, HAVE ECHOED THIS PESSIMISM.

2. FIRST STAGE. AS SIYASA OF FEBRUARY 8 UNDER HEADLINE "KISSINGER INTENDS HOLD GENEVA EARLIER THAN IMAGINED" SAID: "WAY TO GENEVA IS NOT EASY THROUGH EGYPTIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL INITIATIVE TOWARDS ISRAEL IN RETURN FOR PART OF SINAI DUE TO OPPOSITION FROM MANY PARTIES. THEREFORE, THERE IS OTHER VIEW THAT KISSINGER TRIP IS ONLY PRELUDE TO HOLDING GENEVA CONFERENCE AND NOTHING MORE." AS SIYASA AGAIN STATED ON FEBRUARY 11: "IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT KISSINGER'S PRESENT TOUR IS NOT AIMED AT FINDING SOLUTION SINCE THIS WOULD ONLY ANTAGONIZE ISRAEL/PLO AND SYRIA. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT

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SINGLE STEP SOLUTION IS AT HAND, BUT RATHER THAT KISSINGER HAS

RESPONDED TO SOVIET CALL FOR GENEVA AND BEGINNING AGAIN FROM THERE."

2. SECOND PHASE: AL QABAS OF FEBRUARY 11 NOTED: "NEXT STEP IS BECOMING CLEARER -- ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ABU RUDEIS FOLLOWED BY OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL...AND LATER BY STEP IN GOLAN HEIGHTS... KISSINGER IS DETERMINED NOT TO BE CAUGHT IN IMPASSE. AR RA'I AL AM AND SISTER PAPER DAILY NEWS QUESTIONED WHAT IS GOING ON IN DISCUSSIONS AND THEN SAID: "CAIRO'S STAND IS ONLY ONE THAT COUNTS. WE HOPE EGYPT WILL PROVE ITSELF SHREWDER THAN ISRAEL AND KISSINGER."

3. THIRD STAGE: AL WATAN ON FEBRUARY 16 CALLED ON "ARABS TO STOP BETRAYING AND STABBING EGYPT... LET US NOW IN THESE HARD DAYS GIVE HER OUR CONFIDENCE. MOST SERIOUS WOUND TO EGYPT COMES NOT FROM ISRAELI OR U.S. KNIFE BUT FROM ARAB DAGGERS." AR RA'I AL AM THE DAY BEFORE STATED: "KISSINGER WITH FAMED SKILL HAS SHOWN ABILITY RECONCILE CONTRADICTIONS IN HIS MISSION...AFTER BRINGING CAIRO HALF WAY ALONG, HE WANTS DO SAME WITH OIL COUNTRIES, THUS CAUSING LOSS OF SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN STEADFASTNESS. CARDS FOR UNIFIED ACTION REST IN KING FAISAL'S HANDS WHO CAN BE DETERMINING IN BOTH HIS ARAB AND OIL ROLES. STOLTZFUS

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